



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
TO THE OSCE

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STATEMENT

**as delivered by the Delegation of Armenia
at the 1113th meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
Closing Session**

23 July 2025

Madam Chair,

Allow me to start by welcoming Mr. Martin Roger, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia and thanking him for the Closing statement.

I would like to join the other delegations in thanking Estonia for the stewardship of the FSC during the past trimester and organizing the work of the Forum.

The topics chosen for the security dialogues have been timely and relevant, enabling us to engage in meaningful discussions on pertinent political-military issues, against the backdrop of uneasy geopolitical situation in the OSCE area of responsibility.

In this vein, we highlight the Security Dialogue on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, with a particular focus on the democratic control of armed and security forces. This discussion provided a valuable opportunity to engage in substantive exchanges on best practices and lessons learned, as well as to examine the current state of implementation of the Code of Conduct. As a general note here we would like to emphasize that the democratic control of armed and security forces is certainly possible within an atmosphere of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. These principles have been significantly and consistently backsliding in the OSCE area affecting the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Secondly, the OSCE area also has been experiencing widespread human rights abuses, and serious breaches of international law during times of war and armed conflict. Such kind of gross violations pertain to the occupation of sovereign territories, indiscriminate targeting of civilian population and infrastructure, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions and mistreatment of prisoners of war and civilian detainees, recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters as mercenaries into the structures of

armed forces, to name but a few. In this context, the principle of effective democratic oversight of armed and security forces remains fundamental to fostering accountability, ensuring respect for international obligations, and contributing to durable peace and security.

We value the continued focus on the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. The Security Dialogue on the role of women in strengthening defence and ensuring resilience provided an important platform for deliberations on the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in defence and security, recognizing it as an essential prerequisite for building resilient, inclusive, and effective institutions. At the same time, the disproportionate impact of conflict and crisis situations on women and girls underscores the urgent need for their protection from gender-based violence and other serious breaches of IHL and IHRL. In this context, the OSCE's conflict cycle, along with its monitoring and reporting tools, should be fully utilized to safeguard the rights of women and girls, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

The engagement of women, including from the conflict torn indigenous communities is essential for boosting the peace and reconciliation efforts.

The joint FSC-PC meeting placed significant emphasis on the protection of children in armed conflicts which was another pertinent topic for discussion given the alarming rise in violations of children's rights, ranging from deliberate attacks on schools to the denial of humanitarian access, the use of starvation as a method of warfare and forced displacement, all of which have been observed in conflict zones across the OSCE area. Such grave violations not only cause long-term physical and psychological harm to children but also pose a broader threat to international peace and security. In this context, we once again underscore the vital role of the OSCE in preventing and responding to these challenges through comprehensive, persistent efforts aimed at ensuring that children are protected, empowered, and given the opportunity to grow up in dignity and peace. To uphold its purpose and maintain credibility, the OSCE must sustain a meaningful presence and continue its active engagement in conflict-affected regions.

In closing, we would like to once again express our gratitude to the FSC chairpersonship of Estonia. We look forward to working with the incoming chairpersonship of Finland. We also welcome France as a new Troika member and thank Spain, the outgoing Troika member.

Thank you.